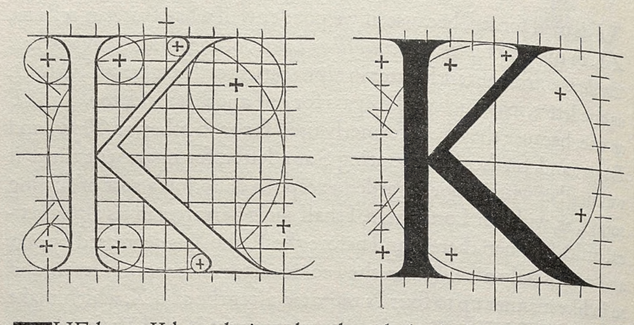
MFurthermore, is used for a thousand because it is written first in the Latin word, *Mille.* In the number one thousand there are two five hundreds, for which reason D stands for five hundred, and twice five hundred is in Latin, *Decies centum,* and in one word, *Mille.* Let him who would look more fully into this subject, divert himself by reading in the book of ancient abbreviations which Probus* Grammaticus wrote long ago, and in Priscian, where he treats, as I have said, *De Numeris et Ponderibus;* also in the book that Galeotus Narniensis wrote and entitled *De Homine Interiori;* & in the beginning of the third book which Monseigneur Budé called *De Asse et Partibus Eius,* where it is said, *Mille per M scribebant,* &c.

* *See the last page of his 'De Litteris Antiquis Opusculum.'*



THE letter K here designed, and made, both the whole leg and the broken ones, from the I, is as broad as it is high, that is to say, ten units perpendicularly & ten across, & requires eight turns of the compass, for the centres of which I have marked the places where the point of the compass should be set.

KSays Martianus Capella, is pronounced from the throat and the palate, without moving the tongue. K is not a Latin letter, but purely Greek, and therefore it seems useless and superfluous in the Latin language; for C and Q are used in its stead, of which letters the Greeks have no representation. In his first book, where he treats *De Accidentibus Literæ,* Priscian says: *K enim et Q, quamuis figura et nomine videantur aliquam habere differentiam cum C, tamen eandem tam in sono vocum, quam in metro potestatem continent; et K quidem penitus superuacua est.*† That is to say: 'For K and Q, although in shape and name they seem to be something different from C, yet have the like quality and force in sound and in metre; & therefore K is a superfluous letter.' K, then, is a Greek letter, properly called by its Greek name—*Cappa,* Καππα.

† I, IV, 14.

IHave said & proved in the First Book that the Greek letters were in use here before the Roman; and I can allege further proof thereof, in that K is still used by us in the name *Karolus,* and in the piece of money worth ten *deniers tournois,* which also we call a *Karolus.* If when the first coin stamped with the Karolus was made, the Latin letters had been in general current use here, they would have written Carolus, which is a Latin word, with a C; but as I have said, following the fashion of the Greek letters, which were then current, they wrote it with K, as we still see on the said coin. It is not long since that the Latin tongue was purified, & came into established use in this country; and to prove that this is true, I refer to the venerable Grecismus,* to the worthy teacher Alexander de Villa Dei,† & a thousand other modern authors, who, though they would fain teach the Latin tongue, yet knew very little of it, so that those to-day who have a correct ear are sorely vexed when they hear their turgid lines and dry compositions recited.

* *Tory here repeats his error of making Grecismus a person. See Note* 19.

† *See Note* 19.

THE Latins retained the K for use in certain words which they took from the Greek, as *Kalendæ, Karthago, Katherina;* but in the end they wrote these too with a C, as we can see in the book of Epitaphs of Ancient Rome, lately printed in said Rome. K, in Greek, because it is the first letter of the word Κακον,—which is to say, in Latin, *malum,* & in French, *mal* and *mauuais chose,* as Erasmus says in his third Chiliad, in Chapter CCCCCLXXXII,‡—has become a proverb: Διπλουν Καππα, *Duplex Kappa,* Double K,—or, if you prefer, Double C,—signifies two evil things essentially opposed to a good one; as if we imagine a lamb in the fields between a lion & a wolf. There is another Greek proverb: Τρια Καππα Κακιστα, *Tria Cappa pessima;* three K's—or, if you prefer, three C's—are very bad; which signifies covertly that there were of old in Greece three very evil-minded nations, the Cappadocians, the Cretans, and the Cilicians; that they were, one and all, & always, full of guile & given to every sort of deceit. Speaking of the three Kappas turned into a Greek proverb, I saw in Rome a young nobleman and blithe lover, who, as gentlemen in this country often do for love of their fair, wore as his device a B, an A, and three C's, thus: B.A.C.C.C.; and thereby he meant the name of his lady-love, which was Beatrice;

‡ III, 6, 81 (2581).

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